

**Chapter 21A.12**  
**DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS - DENSITY AND DIMENSIONS**

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**21A.12.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish basic dimensional standards for development relative to residential density and as well as specific rules for general application. The standards and rules are established to provide flexibility in project design, and maintain privacy between adjacent uses. (Ord. 10870 § 338, 1993).

**21A.12.020 Interpretation of tables.**

A. K.C.C. 21A.12.030 and 21A.12.040 contain general density and dimension standards for the various zones and limitations specific to a particular zone(s). Additional rules, exceptions, and methodologies are set forth in K.C.C. 21A.12.050 through 21A.12.210.

B. The density and dimension tables are arranged in a matrix format on two separate tables and are delineated into two general land use categories:

1. Residential; and
2. Resource and Commercial/Industrial.

C. Development standards are listed down the left side of both tables, and the zones are listed at the top. The matrix cells contain the minimum dimensional requirements of the zone. The parenthetical numbers in the matrix identify specific requirements applicable either to a specific use or zone. A blank box indicates that there are no specific requirements. If more than one standard appears in a cell, each standard will be subject to any applicable parenthetical footnote following the standard. (Ord. 10870 § 339, 1993).

**21A.12.030 Densities and dimensions - residential zones.**

A. Densities and dimensions - residential zones.

	RESIDENTIAL												
	Z O N E S	RURAL				URBAN RE- SERVE	URBAN RESIDENTIAL						
STANDARDS	RA- 2.5	RA-5	RA-10	RA-20	UR	R-1 (17)	R-4	R-6	R-8	R-12	R-18	R-24	R-48
Base Density: Dwelling Unit/Acre (15)	0.2 du/ac	0.2 du/ac	0.1 du/ac	0.05 du/ac	0.2 du/ac (21)	1 du/ac	4 du/ac (6)	6 du/ac	8 du/ac	12 du/ac	18 du/ac	24 du/ac	48 du/ac
Maximum Density: Dwelling Unit/Acre (1)	0.4 du/ac (20)						6 du/ac (22)	9 du/ac	12 du/ac	18 du/ac	27 du/ac	36 du/ac	72 du/ac
Minimum Density: (2)							85% (12) (18) (23)	85% (12) (18)	85% (12) (18)	80% (18)	75% (18)	70% (18)	65% (18)
Minimum Lot Area (13)	1.875 ac	3.75 ac	7.5 ac	15 ac									
Minimum Lot Width (3)	135 ft	135 ft	135 ft	135 ft	35 ft (7)	35 ft (7)	30 ft	30 ft	30 ft	30 ft	30ft	30 ft	30 ft
Minimum Street Setback (3)	30 ft (9)	30 ft (9)	30ft (9)	30 ft (9)	30 ft (7)	20 ft (7)	10 ft (8)	10 ft (8)	10 ft (8)	10 ft (8)	10 ft (8)	10ft (8)	10 ft (8)
Minimum Interior Setback (3) (16)	5 ft (9)	10ft (9)	10 ft (9)	10 ft (9)	5 ft (7)	5 ft (7)	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft	5 ft (10)	5 ft (10)	5 ft (10)	5 ft (10)
Base Height (4)	40 ft	40 ft	40 ft	40 ft	35 ft	35 ft	35 ft (25)	35 ft 45 ft (14) (25)	35 ft 45 ft (14) (25)	60 ft	60 ft 80 ft (14)	60 ft 80 ft (14)	60 ft 80 ft (14)
Maximum Impervious Surface: Percentage (5)	25% (11) (19) (26)	20% (11) (19) (26)	15% (11) (19) (24) (26)	12.5% (11) (19) (26)	30% (11) (26)	30% (11) (26)	55% (26)	70% (26)	75% (26)	85% (26)	85% (26)	85% (26)	90% (26)

B. Development conditions.

1. This maximum density may be achieved only through the application of residential density incentives in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 21A.34 or transfers of development rights in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 21A.37, or any combination of density incentive or density transfer. Maximum density may only be exceeded in accordance with K.C.C. 21A.34.040.F.1.g. and F.6.

2. Also see K.C.C. 21A.12.060.

3. These standards may be modified under the provisions for zero-lot-line and townhouse developments.

21A.12.030

4. Height limits may be increased if portions of the structure that exceed the base height limit provide one additional foot of street and interior setback for each foot above the base height limit, but the maximum height may not exceed seventy-five feet. Netting or fencing and support structures for the netting or fencing used to contain golf balls in the operation of golf courses or golf driving ranges are exempt from the additional interior setback requirements but the maximum height shall not exceed seventy-five feet, except for large active recreation and multiuse parks, where the maximum height shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five feet, unless a golf ball trajectory study requires a higher fence.

5. Applies to each individual lot. Impervious surface area standards for:

a. Regional uses shall be established at the time of permit review;  
b. Nonresidential uses in residential zones shall comply with K.C.C. 21A.12.120 and 21A.12.220;

c. Individual lots in the R-4 through R-6 zones that are less than nine thousand seventy-six square feet in area shall be subject to the applicable provisions of the nearest comparable R-6 or R-8 zone; and

d. A lot may be increased beyond the total amount permitted in this chapter subject to approval of a conditional use permit.

6. Mobile home parks shall be allowed a base density of six dwelling units per acre.

7. The standards of the R-4 zone apply if a lot is less than fifteen thousand square feet in area.

8. At least twenty linear feet of driveway shall be provided between any garage, carport or other fenced parking area and the street property line. The linear distance shall be measured along the center line of the driveway from the access point to such garage, carport or fenced area to the street property line.

9.a. Residences shall have a setback of at least one hundred feet from any property line adjoining A, M or F zones or existing extractive operations. However, residences on lots less than one hundred fifty feet in width adjoining A, M or F zones or existing extractive operations shall have a setback from the rear property line equal to fifty percent of the lot width and a setback from the side property equal to twenty-five percent of the lot width.

b. Except for residences along a property line adjoining A, M or F zones or existing extractive operations, lots between one acre and two and one-half acres in size shall conform to the requirements of the R-1 zone and lots under one acre shall conform to the requirements of the R-4 zone.

10.a. For developments consisting of three or more single-detached dwellings located on a single parcel, the setback shall be ten feet along any property line abutting R-1 through R-8, RA and UR zones, except for structures in on-site play areas required in K.C.C. 21A.14.190, which shall have a setback of five feet.

b. For townhouse and apartment development, the setback shall be twenty feet along any property line abutting R-1 through R-8, RA and UR zones, except for structures in on-site play areas required in K.C.C. 21A.14.190, which shall have a setback of five feet, unless the townhouse or apartment development is adjacent to property upon which an existing townhouse or apartment development is located.

11. Lots smaller than one-half acre in area shall comply with standards of the nearest comparable R-4 through R-8 zone. For lots that are one-half acre in area or larger, the maximum impervious surface area allowed shall be at least ten thousand square feet. On any lot over one acre in area, an additional five percent of the lot area may be used for buildings related to agricultural or forestry practices. For lots smaller than two acres but larger than one-half acre, an additional ten percent of the lot area may be used for structures that are determined to be medically necessary, if the applicant submits with the permit application a notarized affidavit, conforming with K.C.C. 21A.32.170A.2.

12. For purposes of calculating minimum density, the applicant may request that the minimum density factor be modified based upon the weighted average slope of the net buildable area of the site in accordance with K.C.C. 21A.12.087.

13. The minimum lot area does not apply to lot clustering proposals as provided in K.C.C. chapter 21A.14.

14. The base height to be used only for projects as follows:

a. in R-6 and R-8 zones, a building with a footprint built on slopes exceeding a fifteen percent finished grade; and

b. in R-18, R-24 and R-48 zones using residential density incentives and transfer of density credits in accordance with this title.

15. Density applies only to dwelling units and not to sleeping units.

16. Vehicle access points from garages, carports or fenced parking areas shall be set back from the property line on which a joint use driveway is located to provide a straight line length of at least twenty-six feet as measured from the center line of the garage, carport or fenced parking area, from the access point to the opposite side of the joint use driveway.

17.a. All subdivisions and short subdivisions in the R-1 zone shall be required to be clustered if the property is located within or contains:

- (1) a floodplain;
- (2) a critical aquifer recharge area;
- (3) a regionally or locally significant resource area;
- (4) existing or planned public parks or trails, or connections to such facilities;
- (5) a category type S or F aquatic area or category I or II wetland;
- (6) a steep slope; or
- (7) an urban separator or wildlife habitat network designated by the Comprehensive Plan or a community plan.

b. The development shall be clustered away from critical areas or the axis of designated corridors such as urban separators or the wildlife habitat network to the extent possible and the open space shall be placed in a separate tract that includes at least fifty percent of the site. Open space tracts shall be permanent and shall be dedicated to a homeowner's association or other suitable organization, as determined by the director, and meet the requirements in K.C.C. 21A.14.040. On-site critical area and buffers and designated urban separators shall be placed within the open space tract to the extent possible. Passive recreation, with no development of recreational facilities, and natural-surface pedestrian and equestrian trails are acceptable uses within the open space tract.

18. See K.C.C. 21A.12.085.

19. All subdivisions and short subdivisions in R-1 and RA zones within the North Fork and Upper Issaquah Creek subbasins of the Issaquah Creek Basin (the North Fork and Upper Issaquah Creek subbasins are identified in the Issaquah Creek Basin and Nonpoint Action Plan) and the portion of the Grand Ridge subarea of the East Sammamish Community Planning Area that drains to Patterson Creek shall have a maximum impervious surface area of eight percent of the gross acreage of the plat. Distribution of the allowable impervious area among the platted lots shall be recorded on the face of the plat. Impervious surface of roads need not be counted towards the allowable impervious area. Where both lot- and plat-specific impervious limits apply, the more restrictive shall be required.

20. This density may only be achieved on RA 2.5 zoned parcels receiving density from rural forest focus areas through a transfer of density credit pursuant to K.C.C. chapter 21A.37.

21. Base density may be exceeded, if the property is located in a designated rural city urban growth area and each proposed lot contains an occupied legal residence that predates 1959.

22. The maximum density is four dwelling units per acre for properties zoned R-4 when located in the Rural Town of Fall City.

23. The minimum density requirement does not apply to properties located within the Rural Town of Fall City.

24. The impervious surface standards for the county fairground facility are established in the King County Fairgrounds Site Development Plan, Attachment A to Ordinance 14808 on file at the department of natural resources and parks and the department of development and environmental services. Modifications to that standard may be allowed provided the square footage does not exceed the approved impervious surface square footage established in the King County Fairgrounds Site Development Plan Environmental Checklist, dated September 21, 1999, Attachment B to Ordinance 14808, by more than ten percent.

25. For cottage housing developments only:

- a. The base height is eighteen feet.
- b. Buildings have pitched roofs with a minimum slope of six and twelve may extend up to twenty-five feet at the ridge of the roof.

## 21A.12.030 - 21A.12.040

26. Impervious surface does not include access easements serving neighboring property and driveways to the extent that they extend beyond the street setback due to location within an access panhandle or due to the application of King County Code requirements to locate features over which the applicant does not have control. (Ord. 15245 § 6, 2005: Ord. 15051 § 126, 2004: Ord. 15032 § 17, 2004: Ord. 14808 § 4, 2003: Ord. 14807 § 7, 2003: Ord. 14429 § 2, 2002: Ord. 14190 § 33, 2001: Ord. 14045 § 18, 2001: Ord. 13881 § 1, 2000: Ord. 13571 § 1, 1999: Ord. 13527 § 1, 1999: Ord. 13274 § 10, 1998: Ord. 13086 § 1, 1998: Ord. 13022 § 16, 1998: Ord. 12822 § 6, 1997: Ord. 12549 § 1, 1996: Ord. 12523 § 3, 1996: Ord. 12320 § 2, 1996: Ord. 11978 § 4, 1995: Ord. 11886 § 5, 1995: Ord. 11821 § 2, 1995: Ord. 11802 § 3, 1995: Ord. 11798 § 1, 1995: Ord. 11621 § 41, 1994: Ord. 11555 § 5, 1994: Ord. 11157 § 15, 1993: Ord. 10870 § 340, 1993).

**21A.12.040 Densities and dimensions - resource and commercial/industrial zones.****A. Densities and dimensions - resource and commercial/industrial zones.**

Zones and Standards for Resource and Commercial/Industrial										
	ZONES	RESOURCE				COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL				
		AGRICULTURE		F O R E S T	M I N E R A L	NEIGHBOR- HOOD BUSINESS	COMMUNIT Y BUSINESS	REGIONAL BUSINESS	O F F I C E	I N D U S T R I A L
STANDARDS		A-10	A-35	F	M	NB	CB	RB	O	I
Base Density: Dwelling Unit/Acre		0.1 du/ac	.0286 du/ac	.0125 du/ac		8 du/ac (2)	18 du/ac (2)	36 du/ac (2)	36 du/ac (2)	
Maximum Density: Dwelling Unit/Acre						12 du/ac (3)	24 du/ac (3)	48 du/ac (3)	48 du/ac (3)	
Minimum Lot Area		10 acres	35 acres	80 acres	10 acres					
Maximum Lot Depth/ Width Ratio		4 to 1	4 to 1							
Minimum Street Setback		30 ft (4)	30 ft (4)	50 ft (4)	(12)	10 ft (5)	10 ft (5)	10 ft (5)	10 ft	25 ft
Minimum Interior Setback		10 ft (4)	10 ft (4)	100 ft (4)	(12)	20 ft (7) (14)	20 ft (7)	20 ft (7)	20 ft (7)	20 ft (7) 50 ft (8)
Base Height (10)		35 ft	35 ft	35 ft	35 ft	35 ft 45 ft (6)	35 ft 60 ft (6)	35 ft 65 ft (6)	45 ft 60 ft (6)	45 ft
Maximum Floor/Lot Ratio: Square Feet						1/1 (9)	1.5/1 (9)	2.5/1 (9)	2.5/1 (9)	2.5/1
Maximum Impervious Surface: Percentage (13)		15% 35% (11)	10% 35% (11)	10% 35% (11)		85%	85%	90%	75%	90%

**B. Development conditions.**

## 1. Reserved.

2. These densities are allowed only through the application of mixed-use development standards and for stand-alone townhouse development in the NB zone on property designated commercial outside of center in the urban area.

3. These densities may only be achieved through the application of residential density incentives or transfer of development rights in mixed-use developments and for stand-alone townhouse development in the NB zone on property designated commercial outside of center in the urban area. See K.C.C. chapters 21A.34 and 21A.37.

4.a. in the F zone, scaling stations may be located thirty-five feet from property lines. Residences shall have a setback of at least thirty feet from all property lines.

b. for lots between one acre and two and one half acres in size, the setback requirements of the R-1 zone shall apply. For lots under one acre, the setback requirements of the R-4 zone shall apply.

c. for developments consisting of three or more single-detached dwellings located on a single parcel, the setback shall be ten feet along any property line abutting R-1 through R-8, RA and UR zones.

5. Gas station pump islands shall be placed no closer than twenty-five feet to street front lines.

6. This base height allowed only for mixed-use developments and for stand-alone townhouse development in the NB zone on property designated commercial outside of center in the urban area.

7. Required on property lines adjoining residential zones.

8. Required on property lines adjoining residential zones for industrial uses established by conditional use permits.

9. The floor-to-lot ratio for mixed use developments shall conform to K.C.C. chapter 21A.14.

10. Height limits may be increased if portions of the structure building that exceed the base height limit provide one additional foot of street and interior setback for each foot above the base height limit, provided the maximum height may exceed seventy-five feet only in mixed use developments. Netting or fencing and support structures for the netting or fencing used to contain golf balls in the operation of golf courses or golf driving ranges are exempt from the additional interior setback requirement provided that the maximum height shall not exceed seventy-five feet.

11. Applicable only to lots containing less than one acre of lot area. Development on lots containing less than fifteen thousand square feet of lot area shall be governed by impervious surface standards of the nearest comparable R-4 through R-8 zone.

12. See K.C.C. 21A.22.060 for setback requirements in the mineral zone.

13. The impervious surface area for any lot may be increased beyond the total amount permitted in this chapter subject to approval of a conditional use permit.

14. Required on property lines adjoining residential zones unless a stand-alone townhouse development on property designated commercial outside of center in the urban area is proposed to be located adjacent to property upon which an existing townhouse development is located. (Ord. 14190 § 34, 2001: Ord. 14045 § 19, 2001: Ord. 13086 § 2, 1998: Ord. 13022 § 17, 1998: Ord. 12929 § 2, 1997: Ord. 12522 § 4, 1996: Ord. 11821 § 3, 1995: Ord. 11802 § 4, 1995: Ord. 11621 § 42, 1994: Ord. 10870 § 341, 1993).

**21A.12.050 Measurement methods.** The following provisions shall be used to determine compliance with this title:

A. Street setbacks shall be measured from the existing edge of a street right-of-way or temporary turnaround, except as provided by K.C.C. 21A.12.150;

B. Lot widths shall be measured by scaling a circle of the applicable diameter within the boundaries of the lot, provided that an access easement shall not be included within the circle;

C. Building height shall be measured from the average finished grade to the highest point of the roof. The average finished grade shall be determined by first delineating the smallest square or rectangle which can enclose the building and then averaging the elevations taken at the midpoint of each side of the square or rectangle, provided that the measured elevations do not include berms;

D. Lot area shall be the total horizontal land area contained within the boundaries of a lot; and

E. Impervious surface calculations shall not include areas of turf, landscaping, natural vegetation or flow control or water quality treatment facilities. (Ord. 15051 § 127, 2004: Ord. 13190 § 16, 1998: Ord. 10870 § 342, 1993).

**21A.12.060 Minimum urban residential density.** Minimum density for residential development in the urban areas designated by the Comprehensive Plan shall be based on the tables in K.C.C. 21A.12.030, adjusted as provided in 21A.12.070 through 21A.12.080.

A. A proposal may be phased, if compliance with the minimum density requirement results in noncompliance with of K.C.C. chapter 21A.28, if the overall density of the proposal is consistent with this section.

21A.12.060 - 21A.12.085

B. Minimum density requirements may be waived by King County if the applicant demonstrates one or more of the following:

1. The proposed layout of the lots in a subdivision or the buildings in a multiple dwelling development will not preclude future residential development consistent with the minimum density of the zone;

2. The non-sensitive area of the parcel is of a size or configuration that results in lots that cannot meet the minimum dimensional requirements of the zone;

3. In the R-12 through R-48 zones, the area of the parcel required to accommodate storm water facilities exceeds ten percent of the area of the site;

4. The site contains a national, state or county historic landmark.

C. A proposal to locate a single residential unit on a lot shall be exempt from the minimum density requirement provided the applicant either preplans the site by demonstrating that the proposed single residence would be located in a manner compatible with future division of the site in a manner that would meet the minimum density requirements, or locates the dwelling within fifteen feet of one or more of the site's interior lot lines.

D. Alternative minimum density requirements may be imposed through county-approved property-specific development standards (P-suffix), a special district overlays in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 21A.38 or a subarea plan. (Ord. 14045 § 20, 2001: Ord. 11555 § 6, 1994: 10870 § 343, 1993).

**21A.12.070 Calculations - allowable dwelling units, lots or floor area.** Permitted number of units, or lots or floor area shall be determined as follows:

A. The allowed number of dwelling units or lots (base density) shall be computed by multiplying the site area specified in K.C.C. 21A.12.080 by the applicable residential base density number;

B. The maximum density (unit or lot) limits shall be computed by adding the bonus or transfer units authorized by K.C.C. chapters 21A.34 and 21A.37 to the base units computed under subsection A of this section;

C. The allowed floor area, which excludes structured or underground parking areas and areas housing mechanical equipment, shall be computed by applying the floor-to-lot area ratio to the project site area specified in K.C.C. 21A.12.080;

D. If calculations result in a fraction, the fraction shall be rounded to the nearest whole number as follows, except as provided in subsection E of this section:

1. Fractions of 0.50 or above shall be rounded up; and

2. Fractions below 0.50 shall be rounded down; and

E. For subdivisions and short subdivisions in the RA and A zones, rounding up of the number of development units or lots is not allowed. (Ord. 14190 § 35, 2001: Ord. 14045 § 21, 2001: Ord. 11927 § 1, 1995: Ord. 10870 § 344, 1993).

**21A.12.080 Calculations - site area used for base density and maximum density floor area calculations.**

A. All site areas may be used in the calculation of base and maximum allowed residential density or project floor area.

B. For subdivisions and short subdivisions in the RA zone, if calculations of site area for base density result in a fraction, the fraction shall be rounded to the nearest whole number as follows:

1. Fractions of 0.50 or above shall be rounded up; and

2. Fractions below 0.50 shall be rounded down. (Ord. 15051 § 128, 2004: Ord. 14045 § 22, 2001: Ord. 11621 § 43, 1994: Ord. 11555 § 3, 1994: Ord. 10870 § 345, 1993).

**21A.12.085 Calculations - Site area used for minimum density calculations.** Minimum density shall be determined by:

A. Multiplying the Base Density (Dwelling Units/Acre) as set forth in K.C.C. 21A.12.030.A by the net buildable area of the project site; and then

B. Multiplying the resulting product by the Minimum Density percentage set forth in K.C.C. 21A.12.030.A or as adjusted pursuant to the provisions of K.C.C. 21A.12.087. (Ord. 12549 § 2, 1996: Ord. 11798 § 2, 1995: Ord. 11555 § 4, 1994).



**21A.12.087 Minimum density adjustments for moderate slopes.**

A. For purposes of calculating minimum density of sloped sites in zones R-4, R-6 and R-8, the following adjustment is permitted:

Weighted Average Slope of Net Buildable Area(s) of Site:	Minimum Density Factor:
0% - less than 5%	85%
5% - less than 15%	83%, less 1.5% for each 1% of average slope in excess of 5%
15% - less than 40%	66%, less 2.0% for each 1% of average slope in excess of 15%

B. Weighted average slope shall be calculated as follows:

1. The applicant shall submit a topographic survey of the net buildable area(s) of the site which identifies distinct areas within the following slope increments: 0-5%, 5-10%, 10-15%, etc. up to 35-40%.

2. Each slope increment will have a corresponding median slope value. This value is the midpoint of each slope increment. For instance, slope increments of 0-5% and 5-10% shall have median values of 2.5% and 7.5%, respectively.

3. The weighted average slope shall be determined by multiplying the number of square feet in each area by the median slope value in that area. For example, if the net buildable area portion of a site is 30,000 sq. ft. of which there are 10,000 square feet of 5-10% slope and 20,000 square feet of 10-15% slope, the weighted average slope would be 10.8%. See the following calculation [(10,000 sq. ft. times 7.5% plus 20,000 sq. ft. times 12.5%) divided by 30,000 sq. ft. = 10.8%]. (Ord. 12549 § 3, 1996).

**21A.12.090 Lot area - Prohibited reduction.** Any portion of a lot that was used to calculate compliance with the standards and regulations of this title shall not be subsequently subdivided or segregated from such lot. (Ord. 10870 § 346, 1993).

**21A.12.100 Lot area - Minimum lot area for construction.** Except as provided for nonconformances in K.C.C. 21A.32:

A. In the UR and R zones no construction shall be permitted on a lot that contains an area of less than 2,500 square feet or that does not comply with the applicable minimum lot width, except for townhouse developments zero-lot-line subdivisions, or lots created prior to February 2, 1995 in a recorded subdivision or short subdivision which complied with applicable subdivision or short subdivision laws;

B. In the A, F or RA zones:

1. Construction shall not be permitted on a lot containing less than 5,000 square feet; and

2. Construction shall be limited to one dwelling unit and residential accessory uses for lots containing greater than 5,000 square feet, but less than 12,500 square feet. (Ord. 12268 § 1, 1996: Ord. 10870 § 347, 1993).

**21A.12.110 Measurement of setbacks.**

A. Interior setback: the interior setback is measured from the interior lot line to a line parallel to and measured perpendicularly from the interior lot lines at the depth prescribed for each zone.

B. Street setback: the street setback is measured from the street right-of-way or the edge of a surface improvement which extends beyond a right-of-way, whichever is closer to the proposed structure, to a line parallel to and measured perpendicularly from the street right-of-way or the edge of the surface improvement at the depth prescribed for each zone. (Ord. 10870 § 348, 1993).

**21A.12.120 Setbacks - Specific building or use.** When a building or use is required to maintain a specific setback from a property line or other building, such setback shall apply only to the specified building or use. (Ord. 10870 § 349, 1993).

21A.12.122 - 21A.12.140

**21A.12.122 Setbacks - Livestock buildings and manure storage areas.**

- A. The minimum interior setback for any building used to house, confine or feed swine shall be 90 feet.
- B. The minimum interior setback for any building used to house, confine or feed any other livestock shall be 25 feet.
- C. The minimum interior setback for any manure storage area shall be 35 feet. (Ord. 12786 § 3, 1977).

**21A.12.130 Setbacks - Modifications.** The following setback modifications are permitted:

- A. When the common property line of two lots is covered by a building(s), the setbacks required by this chapter shall not apply along the common property line; and
- B. When a lot is located between lots having nonconforming street setbacks, the required street setback for such lot may be the average of the two nonconforming setbacks or 60 percent of the required street setback, whichever results in the greater street setback. (Ord. 10870 § 350, 1993).

**21A.12.140 Setbacks - from regional utility corridors.**

- A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection B. of this section, in subdivisions and short subdivisions, areas used as regional utility corridors shall be contained in separate tracts.
- B. For a subdivision or short subdivision:
  - 1. Upon mutual agreement of the utility and applicant for the subdivision or short subdivision submitted at the time of application for the preliminary plat, the area of the regional utility corridor placed in a separate tract may be less than the entire utility right-of-way or easement. The agreement may be evidenced by correspondence between the utility and the applicant;
  - 2. If the utility and applicant enter into an agreement under subsection B.1. of this section:
    - a. The location of the easement or right-of-way shall be shown on the face of the plat;
    - b. The applicant shall record on the title of all lots that extend into the right-of-way or easement a notice approved by the department that there is an easement or right-of-way for a regional utility corridor that may subject use of that area of the property to conditions established by the utility; and
    - c. The department shall include as conditions of plat approval the conditions on use of the area within the regional utility corridor included in the agreement between the utility and the applicant.
- C. In land development permits other than subdivisions or short subdivisions, easements shall be used to delineate regional utility corridors.
- D. All structures shall maintain a minimum distance of five feet from property or easement lines delineating the boundary of regional utility corridors, except for utility structures necessary to the operation of the utility corridor or when structures are allowed by mutual agreement in the regional utility corridor.
- E. Any structure designed for human occupancy, except for utility structures not normally occupied that are necessary for the operation of the pipeline or a minor communication facility, shall maintain a minimum distance of one hundred feet from a hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipeline located within a regional utility corridor. The setback distance may be modified if the applicant demonstrates the following:
  - 1. A one-hundred-foot setback would deny all reasonable use of the property; or
  - 2. That the structure would be protected from radiant heat of an explosion by berming or other physical barriers; or
  - 3. That a one-hundred-foot setback would be impractical or unnecessary due to existing geographical features, streets, lot lines, or easements; or
  - 4. That no other practical alternative exists to meet the demand for service; and
  - 5. That the applicant will construct a hazardous liquid or gas transmission containment system or other mitigating actions if the county finds that leakage could accumulate within one hundred feet of the pipeline. Any containment system or other mitigating actions required by this section shall meet all applicable federal, state and local regulations. (Ord. 15245 § 7, 2005: Ord. 14045 § 23, 2001: Ord. 13190 § 17, 1998: Ord. 10870 § 351, 1993).

**21A.12.150 Setbacks - From alley.**

A. Structures may be built to a property line abutting an alley, except as provided in subsection B.

B. Vehicle access points from garages, carports or fenced parking areas shall be set back from the alley property line to provide a straight line length of at least 26 feet, as measured from the centerline of the garage, carport or fenced parking area, from the access point to the opposite edge of the alley. No portion of the garage or the door in motion may cross the property line. (Ord. 11978 § 5, 1995: Ord. 10870 § 352, 1993).

**21A.12.160 Setbacks - Required modifications.** The following setback modifications are required:

A. In addition to providing the standard street setback, a lot adjoining a half-street or designated arterial shall provide an additional width of street setback sufficient to accommodate construction of the planned half-street or arterial; and

B. Where the standard setback for a property is modified within an adopted subarea or neighborhood plan area zoning, the applicable setback shall be that specified therein. (Ord. 12822 § 7, 1997: Ord. 10870 § 353, 1993).

**21A.12.170 Setbacks - projections and structures allowed.** Provided that the required setbacks from regional utility corridors of K.C.C. 21A.12.140, the adjoining half-street or designated arterial setbacks of K.C.C. 21A.12.160 and the sight distance requirements of K.C.C. 21A.12.210 are maintained, structures may extend into or be located in required setbacks, including setbacks as required by K.C.C. 21A.12.220.B, as follows:

A. Fireplace structures, bay or garden windows, enclosed stair landings, closets, or similar structures may project into any setback, provided such projections are:

1. Limited to two per facade;
2. Not wider than ten feet; and
3. Not more than twenty-four inches into an interior setback or thirty inches into a street setback;

B. Uncovered porches and decks that exceed eighteen inches above the finished grade may project:

1. Eighteen inches into interior setbacks; and
2. Five feet into the street setback;

C. Uncovered porches and decks not exceeding eighteen inches above the finished grade may project to the property line;

D. Eaves may not project more than:

1. Eighteen inches into an interior setback;
2. Twenty-four inches into a street setback; or
3. Eighteen inches across a lot line in a zero-lot-line development;

E. Fences with a height of six feet or less may project into or be located in any setback;

F. Rockeries, retaining walls and curbs may project into or be located in any setback provided these structures:

1. Do not exceed a height of six feet in the R-1 through R-18, UR, RA and resource zones;
2. Do not exceed a height of eight feet in the R-24 and R-48 zones; and
3. Do not exceed the building height for the zone in commercial/industrial zones, measured in accordance with the standards established in the King County Building Code, Title 16;

G. Fences located on top of rockeries, retaining walls or berms are subject to the requirements of K.C.C. 21A.14.220;

H. Telephone, power, light and flag poles;

I. The following may project into or be located within a setback, but may only project into or be located within a five foot interior setback area if an agreement documenting consent between the owners of record of the abutting properties is recorded with the King County department of records and elections prior to the installment or construction of the structure:

1. Sprinkler systems, electrical and cellular equipment cabinets and other similar utility boxes and vaults;
2. Security system access controls;

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3. Structures, except for buildings, associated with trails and on-site recreation spaces and play areas required in K.C.C.21A.14.180 and K.C.C. 21A.14.190 such as benches, picnic tables and drinking fountains; and

4. Surface water management facilities as required by K.C.C. 9.04;

J. Mailboxes and newspaper boxes may project into or be located within street setbacks;

K. Fire hydrants and associated appendages;

L. Metro bus shelters may be located within street setbacks;

M. Unless otherwise allowed in K.C.C. 21A.20.080, free standing and monument signs four feet or less in height, with a maximum sign area of twenty square feet may project into or be located within street setbacks;

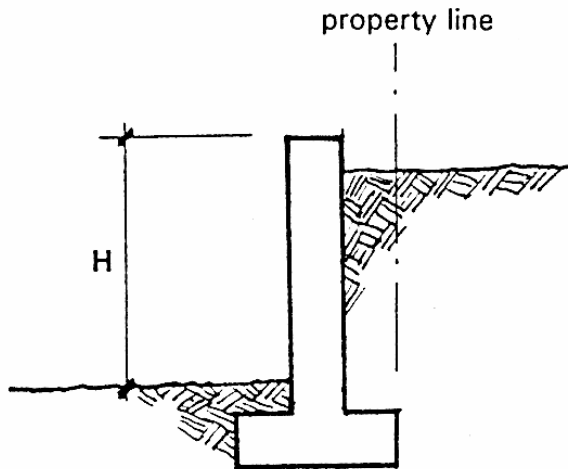
N. On a parcel in the RA zone, in the interior setback that adjoins a property zoned NB or CB, structures housing refrigeration equipment that extends no more than ten feet into the setback and is no more than sixty feet in length; and

O. Stormwater conveyance and control facilities, both above and below ground, provided such projections are:

1. Consistent with setback, easement and access requirements specified in the Surface Water Design Manual; or

2. In the absence of said specifications, not within five feet of the property line.

#### **RETAINING WALL IN SETBACK**



**H max. 6' in R1 - R18, UR, RA  
& Resource Zones**

**H max. 8' in R24 and R 48 Zones, and  
not to exceed building height  
requirement in Commerical/Industrial  
Zones**

(Ord. 15606 § 16, 2006: Ord. 13190 § 18, 1998: Ord. 13022 § 18, 1998: Ord. 12987 § 4, 1998: Ord. 10870 § 354, 1993).

**21A.12.180 Height - Exceptions to limits.** The following structures may be erected above the height limits of K.C.C. 21A.12.030-.050.

A. Roof structures housing or screening elevators, stairways, tanks, ventilating fans or similar equipment required for building operation and maintenance; and

B. Fire or parapet walls, skylights, flagpoles, chimneys, smokestacks, church steeples, crosses, spires, communication transmission and receiving structures, utility line towers and poles, and similar structures. (Ord. 10870 § 355, 1993).

**21A.12.190 Height - Limits near major airports.** No building or structure shall be erected nor shall any tree be allowed to grow to a height in excess of the height limit established by the Airport Height

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DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS - DENSITY AND DIMENSIONS

21A.12.200

**21A.12.200 Lot or site divided by zone boundary.** When a lot or site is divided by a zone boundary, the following applies:

A. If a lot or site contains both residential and non-residential zoning, the zone boundary between the zones shall be considered a lot line for determining permitted building height and required setbacks on the site.

B. If a lot or site contains residential zones of varying density:

1. Any residential density transfer within the lot or site shall be allowed if:

a. the density, as a result of moving dwelling units from one lot to another lot within a site or across zone lines within a single lot, does not exceed one hundred fifty percent of the base density on any of the lots or portions of a lot to which the density is transferred;

b. the transfer does not reduce the minimum density achievable on the lot or site;

c. the transfer enhances the efficient use of needed infrastructure;

d. the transfer does not result in significant adverse impacts to the low density portion of the lot or site;

e. the transfer contributes to preservation of environmentally sensitive areas, wildlife corridors, or other natural features; and

f. the transfer does not result in significant adverse impacts to adjoining lower density properties;

2. Residential density transfers from one lot to another lot within a site or from one portion of a lot to another portion of a lot across a zone line shall not be allowed in the RA zone;

3. Residential density transfers shall not be allowed to a lot or portion of a lot zone R-1;

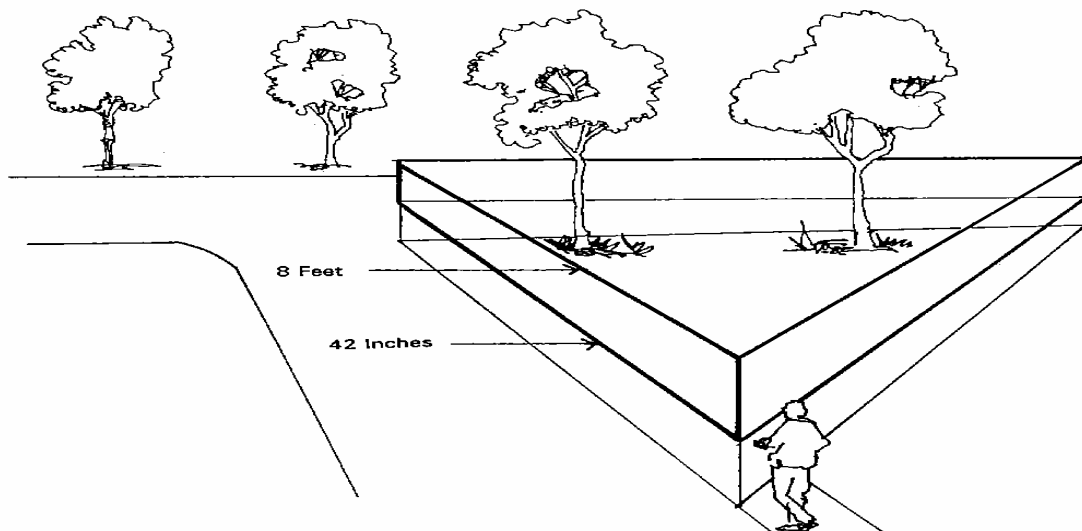
4. Compliance with the criteria in this subsection B shall be evaluated during review of any development proposals in which such a transfer is proposed; and

5. Residential density transfers from one lot to another lot within a site or from one portion of a lot to another portion of a lot across a zone line shall not, in of itself, be considered development above the base density for purposes of requiring a conditional use permit for apartments or townhouses in the R-1 through R-8 zones.

C. Uses on each portion of the lot shall only be those permitted in each zone in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 21A.08. (Ord. 14429 § 3, 2002: Ord. 14045 § 24, 2001: Ord. 11157 § 16, 1993: Ord. 10870 § 357, 1993).

**21A.12.210 Sight distance requirements.** Except for utility poles and traffic control signs, the following sight distance provisions shall apply to all intersections and site access points:

A. A sight distance triangle area as determined by Section 21A.12.210B shall contain no fence, berm, vegetation, on-site vehicle parking area, signs or other physical obstruction between 42 inches and eight feet above the existing street grade;



**NOTE: The area of a sight distance triangle between 42 inches and eight feet above the existing street grade shall remain open.**

B. The sight distance triangle at:

1. A street intersection shall be determined by measuring 15 feet along both street property lines beginning at their point of intersection. The third side of the triangle shall be a line connecting the endpoints of the first two sides of the triangle; or

2. A site access point shall be determined by measuring 15 feet along the street lines and 15 feet along the edges of the driveway beginning at the respective points of intersection. The third side of each triangle shall be a line connecting the endpoints of the first two sides of each triangle; and

C. The director may require modification or removal of structures or landscaping located in required street setbacks, if:

1. Such improvements prevent adequate sight distance to drivers entering or leaving a driveway, and,

2. No reasonable driveway relocation alternative for an adjoining lot is feasible. (Ord. 10870 § 358, 1993).

**21A.12.220 Nonresidential land uses in residential zones.** Except for utility facilities, uses listed in K.C.C. 21A.08.100, and nonresidential uses regulated by 21A.12.230, all nonresidential uses located in the RA, UR, or R zones shall be subject to the following requirements:

- A. Impervious surface coverage shall not exceed:
  - 1. Forty percent of the site in the RA zone.
  - 2. Seventy percent of the site in the UR and the R-1 through R-8 zones.
  - 3. Eighty percent of the site in the R-12 through R-48 zones.
- B. Buildings and structures, except fences and wire or mesh backstops, shall not be closer than 30 feet to any property line, except as provided in subsection C.
- C. Single detached dwelling allowed as accessory to a church or school shall conform to the setback requirements of the zone.
- D. Parking areas are permitted within the required setback area from property lines, provided such parking areas are located outside of the required landscape area.
- E. Sites shall abut or be accessible from at least one public street functioning at a level consistent with King County Road Design Standards. New high school sites shall abut or be accessible from a public street functioning as an arterial per the King County Design Standards.
- F. The base height shall conform to the zone in which the use is located.
- G. Building illumination and lighted signs shall be designed so that no direct rays of light are projected into neighboring residences or onto any street right-of-way. (Ord. 11802 § 5, 1995: Ord. 11621 § 44, 1994: Ord. 10870 § 359, 1993).

**21A.12.230 Personal services and retail uses in R-4 through R-48 zones.** The general personal service use (SIC # 72 except 7216, 7218 and 7261) listed in K.C.C. 21A.08.050 and the retail uses, except agricultural crop sales, listed in K.C.C. 21A.08.070 which are located in the R-4 through R-48 zones shall be subject to the following requirements:

- A. Each individual establishment shall not exceed 5,000 square feet of gross floor area and the combined total of all contiguous commercial establishments shall not exceed 15,000 square feet of gross floor area;
- B. Establishments shall not be located less than one mile from another commercial establishment, unless located with other establishments meeting the criteria in paragraph A;
- C. Establishment sites shall abut an intersection of two public streets, each of which is designated as a neighborhood collector or arterial and which has improved pedestrian facilities for at least 1/4th mile from the site;
- D. The maximum on-site parking ratios for establishments and sites shall be 2 per 1000 square feet and required parking shall not be located between the building(s) and the street; and
- E. Buildings shall comply with the building facade modulation and roofline variation requirements in K.C.C. 21A.14.080 and .090 and at least one facade of the building shall be located within five feet of the sidewalk.
- F. If the personal service or retail use is located in a building with multifamily uses, then the commercial use shall be on the ground floor and shall not exceed 25 percent of the total floor area of the building.
- G. Sign and landscaping standards for the use apply. (Ord. 12596 § 11, 1997: Ord. 10870 § 360, 1993).

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